

State of New Mexico
Office of the Governor

Bill Richardson
Governor

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SANTA FE - New Mexico Governor Bill Richardson today released the following statement regarding the release of draft request for proposals (RFP) for the management contract for Los Alamos National Laboratory.

I want to commend Secretary Abraham and the Department of Energy for releasing the draft request for proposal for the management contract for Los Alamos National Laboratory and beginning the competition process. I am pleased that the head of the Department's Source Selection Board, Tyler Przybylek, will be in New Mexico next week to hear from lab employees, Los Alamos community leaders and the four Accord Pueblos' Governors. Input from New Mexicans, and in particular those in Northern New Mexico, is critical to the ultimate success of this competition process.

While my office is continuing to review the RFP, I am pleased that the Department has placed a very strong weighting on science and technology in the competition. This is key to the continued success of the lab and to its future contributions to our nation and to New Mexico. The fact that the criteria also include consideration for the business operations of the Lab speak to the importance of how closely linked these two elements should be.

My office will be watching closely to ensure that the Department's requirement that comparable salary and benefits be maintained under the terms of the new contract is maintained throughout the process.

I applaud the Department of Energy for requiring that both NNSA and the contractor support community and economic programs and initiatives that have a beneficial impact on Northern New Mexico. The University of California has taken significant steps toward implementing effective and worthwhile community and economic programs and I am pleased that these valuable efforts have been recognized and will continue.

Finally, I believe that the competition process for this laboratory that we are going through is important for ensuring that our nation and the people of New Mexico remain confident in the management of Los Alamos National Laboratory. There is no institution of higher scientific and technological

quality than the University of California, and it is the relationship with the University that has created the powerful institution that Los Alamos National Laboratory is today. During a meeting last month with University of California regents, I emphasized my belief that UC has provided an invaluable national service for more than 60 years. This competition process will allow UC to further strengthen its management and continue its leadership of this great laboratory into this new century. I was encouraged by the response from the regents, and my initial review of the RFP process indicates favorable conditions for the University of California to win the bid.

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